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DE RUEHSO #0630 3311017
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8741
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 9897
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 4247
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 8928
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 3335
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 3582
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 2811
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2582
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 3991
RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000630

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [CASC](#) [PREL](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: SEVERE FLOODING IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

¶1. (U) Heavy rains in the Southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina have left at least 68 dead and over 50,000 homeless. Santa Catarina State Governor, Luis Henrique da Silveira reported that this is the worst climatic tragedy faced by Santa Catarina state in its history. He said heavy rainfall over the last 60 days has caused havoc in the state with destruction of highways, homes, plantations and human life. He said that the floods are affecting 1.5 million people and that the federal government is sending rescue teams, medicines and food supplies.

¶2. (U) There are 352 American citizens registered in the affected area, but there are no reports of casualties among the American community. However, the situation is still developing and communications are limited.

¶3. (U) Mission Brazil has been in touch with Santa Catarina State Deputy Secretary for International Affairs, Celso Eduardo Flores to discuss an offer of disaster relief from USAID's Office of Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The Deputy Secretary requested that we coordinate our response with their Director of Civil Protection, which we agreed. He also understood that we would channel our funding via Caritas Brazil. USAID has agreed to send a two person assessment team to the region to assess the situation.

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